Nagpur, Pune is a distinct reality; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the occurrance of such rain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There are no confirmed reports of any incidence of acid rain in India so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Re-imbursement under Leave Travel Concession Scheme

1016. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to re-imburse full rail fare to Central Government employees visiting their native place under the Leave Travel Concession Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Orders have been issued on the 11th July, 1985 allowing full reimbursement of the railway fare to Central Government employees for visiting their home towns under the Leave Travel Concession Scheme. With effect from that date, for travel to home town, Group D employees do not have to bear the cost of the rail fare for 160 KMs and other employees for 400 KMs, as was the position under the earlier provisions of the Leave Travel Concession Scheme. As a further result, Group D employees having their homes within a distance of 160 KMs and other employees having their homes within a distance of 400 KMs from their headquarters will also be able to avail of the Scheme to visit their home towns.

Sanctioning of pensions to freedom fighters

1017. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for "freedom fighters" pension from Kerala were pending with Government as on the 30th June, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that applications duly recommended by the State Government even in 1983 are still pending; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the concerned auhorities to slow down the process of sanctioning the pension, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The number of applications from the State of Kerala pending on 30-6-85 is 7960.

(b) Excepting those cases in which further clarifications have been sought for, no such applications are pending with Central Government.

(c) No, Sir.

Introduction of package tours to the different parts of the country

1018. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to introduce some package tours to the different parts of the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are being contemplated by Government to boost domestic tourism during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The Central Government has asked India Tourism Development Corporation, State Tourism Development Corporations, Vayudoot, etc. to evolve suitable package tours for promoting inter-state tourism. Bilateral agrements between these Corporations are being worked out.

(c) Department of Tourism has taken up several projects to develop tourist infrastructure at selected tourist centres for the purpose of boosting domestic tourism during the 7th Plan period. The Department is helping in creating additional accommodation for budget tourists and pilgrims as well as developing beach resorts, trekking, wild life tourism and adventure tourism, etc. in collaboration with the State Governments within the constraint of available resources.

Complaints of harassment of foreigners at airports

1019. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaints of harassments at the Indian airports have recently been received by Government from the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to avoid such complaints in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tourists have complaints about delays at the check-in counter, cumbersome security and immigration procedure. Similarly, on the arrival side there have been some complaints about the delays in health, immigration and customs clearances and harrassment and extortion by touts etc.

(c) Government now propose simplifying health check at all International Airports. Similarly, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue are taking steps to augment the number of counters for the security, immigration and customs staff. The Airport Authority and the local police have been requested to look after other conveniences of passengers inside and outside the Airport buildings and to exercise vigilance against touts etc. The Department of Tourism have started organising training/orientation courses for personnel of all Departments who come in contact with the foreign tourist.

Lapses in Administration and Implementation of the IRDP

1020. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level committee set up to review the existing administrative arrangements for implementation of the IRDP has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make the IRDP more effective?